

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/785,643

Examiner

Calvin L. Hewitt II

Applicant(s)

GOODWIN, JONATHAN DAVID

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication with Applicant's Representative on 4-6-07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4,6-12,14,16-18,40,41 and 47-49.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12-7-04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond Tabandeh on 6 April 2007.

2. The Application has been amended as follows-
Claims 1-3, 13, 19-39 and 42-46 have been canceled.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 48, wherein the validity status of the value bearing indicium data is determined to be invalid if the value bearing indicium data is not found in the validation information database.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 48 wherein the value bearing indicium is a ticket.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 48 wherein the value bearing indicium is postage for a mail piece.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 48 wherein the value bearing indicium is currency.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 48 wherein the value bearing indicium is a voucher.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 48 wherein the value bearing indicium is a coupon.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 48 wherein the value bearing indicium is a traveler's check.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 48, wherein the step of generating value bearing indicium data using the validation information includes the steps of:

generating a message digest by hashing a first subset of the validation information;

generating a digital signature from the message digest; and

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 47, wherein the validity status of the ticket is determined to be invalid if the validation information is not found in the validation information database.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 47, wherein the step of generating a the ticket ~~using the validation information including~~ comprises the steps of:

generating a message digest by hashing a first subset of the validation information;

generating a digital signature from the message digest;

generating a bar code from a second subset of the validation information;

and

transmitting via the computer network the digital signature and the bar code to the end-user's machine ~~to be printed as a ticket.~~

40. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim ~~39~~ 49, wherein the validity status of the ~~value-bearing indicium data~~ ticket is determined to be invalid if the ~~value-bearing indicium data~~ indiciu graphic and the validation information in the ticket is not found in the validation information database.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim ~~39~~ 49, wherein the validity status of the ~~value-bearing indicium data~~ ticket is determined to be redeemed if the ~~value-bearing indicium data~~ indiciu graphic and the validation information in the ticket and a redemption status thereof are found in the validation information database.

47. (New) A method of providing a ticket to an end-user via a computer network, the method comprising:

providing a ticket server, the ticket server coupled to a validation information database;

generating a web interface by a distributor server coupled to the computer network;

receiving a ticket request over the computer network from an end-user's machine by the distributor server via the web interface;

transmitting the validation information and the link to the indicium graphic in the ticket server to the web browser of the end-user's machine, by the distributor server;

receiving by the ticket server the validation information and the link to the indicium graphic from the end-user's machine via the computer network;

generating by the ticket server an indicium graphic using the validation information and the link to the indicium graphic;

generating by the ticket server a ticket using the indicium graphic and the validation information;

storing the indicium graphic and the validation information in the validation information database, before the ticket is validated;

transmitting the ticket by the ticket server to the end-user's machine, wherein the ticket includes a copy of the indicium graphic and the validation information;

printing the ticket;

scanning the printed ticket using a scanning machine and receiving the scanned copy of the ticket from a remote terminal including the scanning machine, by the ticket server via the computer network;

determining a validity status for the ticket by the ticket server using the received indicium graphic and the validation information in the ticket, and the validation information database; and

transmitting the validity status to the remote terminal by the ticket server via the computer network.

48. (New) A method of providing a value bearing indicium to an end-user via a computer network, the method comprising:

providing an indicium server, the indicium server coupled to a validation information database;

generating a web interface by a distributor server coupled to the computer network;

receiving a value bearing indicium request over the computer network from an end-user's machine by the distributor server via the web interface;

generating validation information from the value bearing indicium request and a link to an indicium graphic in the indicium server, by the distributor server;

transmitting the validation information and the link to the indicium graphic in the indicium server to the web browser of the end-user's machine, by the distributor server;

receiving by the indicium server the validation information and the link to the indicium graphic from the end-user's machine via the computer network;

generating by the indicium server a digital signature using the validation information and the link to the indicium graphic;

generating by the indicium server the value bearing indicium using the digital signature;

storing the digital signature in the validation information database;

transmitting the value bearing indicium to the end-user's machine by the indicium server, wherein the value bearing indicium includes a copy of the digital signature;

printing the value bearing indicium including the digital signature;

scanning the printed value bearing indicium using a scanning machine and receiving the scanned copy of the value bearing indicium from a remote terminal including a scanning machine, by the indicium server via the computer network;

determining a validity status for the value bearing indicium by the indicium server using the received digital signature in the scanned value bearing indicium, and the validation information database; and

transmitting the validity status to the remote terminal by the indicium server via the computer network.

49. (New) A computer-readable storage medium embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer, the computer program instructions adapting a computer to provide value bearing indicium data to a end-user via a computer network, the computer program instructions comprising:

providing a ticket server, the ticket server coupled to a validation information database;

generating a web interface by a distributor server coupled to the computer network;

receiving a ticket request over the computer network from an end-user's machine by the distributor server via the web interface;

generating validation information from the ticket request and a link to an indicium graphic in the ticket server, by the distributor server;

transmitting the validation information and the link to the indicium graphic in the ticket server to the web browser of the end-user's machine, by the distributor server;

receiving by the ticket server the validation information and the link to the indicium graphic from the end-user's machine via the computer network;

generating by the ticket server an indicium graphic using the validation information and the link to the indicium graphic;

generating by the ticket server a ticket using the indicium graphic and the validation information;

storing the indicium graphic and the validation information in the validation information database, before the ticket is validated;

transmitting the ticket by the ticket server to the end-user's machine, wherein the ticket includes a copy of the indicium graphic and the validation information;

printing the ticket;

scanning the printed ticket using a scanning machine and receiving the scanned copy of the ticket from a remote terminal including the scanning machine, by the ticket server via the computer network;

determining a validity status for the ticket by the ticket server using the received indicium graphic and the validation information in the ticket, and the validation information database; and

transmitting the validity status to the remote terminal by the ticket server via the computer network.

3. Claims 4, 6-12, 14, 16-18, 40, 41 and 47-49 have been examined.

4. Claims 4, 6-12, 14, 16-18, 40, 41 and 47-49 have been allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

5. The present invention is directed to online ticketing.

Printing a ticket for an event is old and well known. For example, Quinn (US 3,688,276) teaches a remote central computer for controlling a vending machine that prints entertainment tickets in response to a user request ('276, abstract; figure 1; column 3, lines 22-28). Quinn, however, does not disclose ticket authorization or security. The closest prior art of Kay (US 6,223,166) teaches a user requesting a ticket, embedding validation information in the ticket and transmitting the ticket to the user ('166, abstract; figures 1 and 4; column/line 3/65-4/5). Kay also teaches creating a digital signature of the ticket information, adding the signature to the ticket and after printing, using the validation information and the signature to validate the ticket ('166, column 4, lines 25-29). However, Applicant's claimed method is distinguished from the prior art, as the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest, single or in combination: a distributor server generating validation information from a ticket request and a link to an indicium graphic, and distributing the link and validation information to a user computer, the user computer transmitting the link and the validation information to a ticket (or indicium) server, and the ticket server (or indicium) generating an

indicium graphic (or digital signature) using the validation information and the link to the indicium graphic, and a ticket using the indicium graphic and the validation information (or a value-bearing indicium using the digital signature).

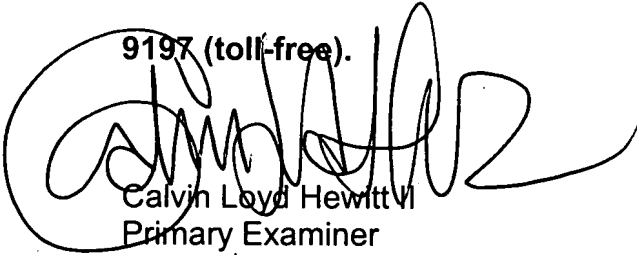
Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:
 - "Online: Ticket Scalpers Find a Home on the Web", Bruce Orwall, Wall Street Journal, February 4, 1999, pg B.1
 - Huettinger teaches a ticket that comprises a digital signature
5. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Calvin Loyd Hewitt II whose telephone number is (571) 272-6709. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer, can be reached at (571) 272-6779.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov/>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-

9197 (toll-free).



Calvin Lloyd Hewitt VI
Primary Examiner

April 14, 2007